

Ensuring appropriate nutrition from the start: Infant and young child nutrition

Session Description

Malnutrition is responsible, directly or indirectly, for about half of the world's annual deaths among children under five. There are 178 million stunted children under five years old in the world, 90% of whom live in high-burden countries. A major intervention to rectify this situation is to improve infant and young child feeding practices. The Lancet Series on Child Survival, Neonatal Survival and Maternal and Child Undernutrition include among the evidence-based strategies to improve survival and reduce undernutrition appropriate breastfeeding and complementary feeding. WHO continues to promote infant and young child feeding as essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, in particular, those relating to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger and to the reduction of child mortality. Many countries have implemented or officially adopted the Child Growth Standards launched in April 2006, along with tools for ensuring implementation. T

heir use is prompting significant changes towards best practices, as countries standardize their guidelines for assessing child growth and revitalize their programmes for promoting child health. This session will provide an overview of the rationale for the recommended practices and updates on current situation for promoting, protecting and supporting appropriate infant and young child nutrition.

Purpose

The purpose of this session is to present an overview of child feeding practices and share information on the current activities on infant and young child nutrition, the evidence for recommendations, the impact of appropriate IYCF practices on child health and survival as well as the long-term effects of these practices. . Additionally, successful programme and policy strategies for strengthening infant and young child nutrition related activities at country level will be highlighted including presentation of country experiences.

Outcomes - knowledge and action points

The symposia will include various learning methodologies, including presentations on the situation at global and country level, discussions and....Participants will be able to learn, through exchange of experiences, about policy and programme interventions that help to strengthen infant and young child nutrition. Additionally, the benefits of appropriate monitoring and evaluation system as well as integration of infant and young child nutrition into existing national policies and programmes will be discussed.

Session Chair/Moderator

Chair: Dr. Rokiah Don, Malaysia, Deputy Director, Nutrition Division, Department of Public Health Ministry of Health Malaysia

Moderators: Randa Saadeh and Carmen Casanovas, WHO/NHD

Introduction (Dr. Rokiah Don) - 5 min

Session Topics and Speakers

Topic 1: Global Strategy for infant and young child feeding (35 min)

a) Overview of current recommendations and global situation -15 min

Speaker: Randa Saadeh, WHO/NHD

b) Status of implementation in countries (Cambodia, China) - 20 min

Speaker: Dr. Mary Chea and Dr. Dai Yaohua

Topic 2: WHO Growth Standards and current feeding recommendations - (15 min)

Speaker: Carmen Casanovas, WHO/NHD

Topic 3: Complementary feeding (25 min)

a) Guiding Principles: evidence for current recommendations - 15 min

Speaker: Hilary Creed-Kanashiro

b) Monitoring feeding practices: an update from WHO - 10 min

Speaker: Randa Saadeh, WHO/NHD

Summary and discussion from the floor (10 min)

Speaker: Rokiah Don